

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 EUR-08 AGR-05 AID-05 IGA-01

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-04 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-02 OMB-01 L-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 989

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12882

NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, LE

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COUNTRY ASSESSMENT ON LEBANON

REF: STATE 226821

1. WE BASICALLY AGREE WITH ASSESSMENT OUTLINED IN
DEPARTMENT'S 226821.

2. HOWEVER SUGGEST INCORPORATION FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS:

A. SIGNIFICANCE: IN FIRST SENTENCE ADD AFTER QUOTE
TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR OPIUM UNQUOTE FOLLOWING QUOTE
AND ITS DERIVATIVES UNQUOTE AND AFTER QUOTE IN LARGE
QUANTITIES ADD QUOTE AND HASHISH OIL, WHICH IS RAPIDLY
BECOMING A DRUG OF CHOICE, AND BEING PRODUCED IN
INCREASINGLY SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES UNQUOTE. SECOND
SENTENCE STRIKE QUOTE AT LEAST NOT IN SIGNIFICANT
AMOUNTS UNQUOTE AS WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF ANY
OPIUM POPPY GROWTH IN LEBANON. IN THIRD SENTENCE
WE AGREE WITH CONCLUSION QUOTE AMOUNTS INVOLVED ARE
SMALL UNQUOTE BUT HAVE NOT SEEN REPORTS MENTIONED.
FOURTH SENTENCE CONCUR.

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B. PROBLEM: ADD FOLLOWING TO PARAGRAPH QUOTE THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN MUCH LESS SUCCESSFUL IN EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE OR REDUCE PRODUCTION AND TRANSIT OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF HASHISH. ALTHOUGH SEIZURES HAVE RISEN, OUR INFORMATION IS PRODUCTION HAS AS WELL. IN ADDITION HASHISH OIL HAS BECOME A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM IN THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF. ALTHOUGH THE GOL IS COMMITTED TO STOP PRODUCTION, TRAFFICKING, AND USE OF HASHISH, THE COMMITMENT IS LESS RE HASHISH THAN FOR HARD DRUGS WHERE THE COMMITMENT IS STRONG. HASHISH GROWTH AND SALE IS A SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEM AND CONSEQUENTLY ITS CONTROL PRESENTS SERIOUS POLITICAL PROBLEMS TO ANY LEBANESE GOVERNMENT. FURTHERMORE, LOCAL USE HAS NOT YET BECOME A WORRYING PROBLEM AND CONSEQUENTLY PUBLIC PRESSURE FOR STRONGER HASHISH CONTROL IS NOT STRONG. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS RE HASHISH ARE FURTHER COMPLICATED BY ITS LIMITED CONTROL OVER THE HASHISH PRODUCING AREA OF LEBANON, THE VENAL ATTITUDE OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS, AND THE PPLITICAL STRENGTH OF THE LOCAL OVERLORDS OF THE PRODUCING AREAS RELATIVE TO THAT OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.

3. WILL GIVE MORE DETAIL ON POSITION IN OUR COUNTRY PROGRAM NOW UNDER PREPARATION.
GODLEY

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